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State of South Carolina

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STATE DOCUMENTS

D. Leslie Tindal - Commissioner

October 14, 1999

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Budget & Control Board
OFFICE OF STATE BUDGET

Mr. Les Boles, Director
Office of State Budget
1122 Lady Street, 12th Floor
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Mr. Boles:

Enclosed is the Accountability Report for fiscal year 1998-99. This department uses several formulas for determining our mission, objectives, and performance measures.

Our mission and objectives are measured by our consumers of this state. The question that is most important to us is how does it effect them. We strive to meet our mission and objectives in each of our major divisions in order to serve our consumers.

Our performance measures are based heavily by each division's objectives which are: revenue taken into this agency which goes to meet division needs, the number of various inspections and samples taken and analyzed throughout the year, the number of those inspections and samples which did not meet approval, how much each inspection and sample cost by taking our salaries and fringe benefits into the formula, how we try to reach the consumers and farmers of the state by working with different associations and programs.

If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact Dan Breazeale at 734-2196.

Sincerely,

Daniel P. Breazeale, Sr.
Administrative Manager

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Enclosures

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE- P16

1998-99 ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In ranking programs in the Department of Agriculture, the center of focus is the consumer. To assure safe, affordable food and fiber products for all consumers, both domestic and international, we must have programs that act and assure versus reactionary programs. Programs are reviewed and based on historical data coupled with expectations both by consumers and producers, and are adjusted with priority changes occurring dependent on contributing factors.

With production agriculture being one of the major economic contributors to our overall economy, programs are viewed regarding their extent on continuance of and advancement for South Carolina's total economic package. To maintain this position, futuristic thinking is applied in program review.

Our major program goals are to continue to have in South Carolina an agricultural production and processing industry capable of supplying the consumer with a safe, cost efficient food and fiber supply. Protecting our consumer along with fostering an economic base to insure an adequate standard of living for all involved in agricultural production, from producer to processor, is of major concern.

The Department of Agriculture cooperates with various state and producer agencies as common problems are addressed searching for workable solutions. Considerable cooperative efforts are exercised with the Department of Health and Environmental Control dealing with food handling, storage and food preparation safety.

Clemson University and this department work cooperatively on various projects ranging from livestock and poultry to processing problems for state regulatory facilities. The economic and marketing studies involving South Carolina agriculture and its position in a global market are cooperative efforts.

Very close cooperative agreements exist with the state's mandated commodity boards and associations dealing with South Carolina agricultural products in domestic and international trade and in product acceptance.

The accompanying accountability reports for each of the Department of Agriculture's divisions further clarify and define the missions, goals and overall programs for the Agricultural Industry in South Carolina.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Department of Agriculture was established to promote the industry of agriculture and its related activities for providing for the orderly, informed marketing of its products; to encourage investments in its growth and diversification; to assure the consumer of an abundant, pure and wholesome supply of agriculture commodities during all seasons; and to protect the consuming public from deceitful marketing practices and unsafe, ineffective or fraudulent goods.

LEADERSHIP SYSTEM

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture's leadership system is based on the leadership provided by the Commissioner of Agriculture. The Commissioner is a Constitutional Officer of the State of South Carolina elected by the voters of South Carolina. The Commissioner has a senior leadership team who reports directly to him. These include the Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture for Executive Affairs, Economic Development Manager, Executive Assistant to Agency Head, Assistant Commissioner of Laboratory Services, Assistant Commissioner of Consumer Services, Director of Agricultural Marketing and Promotions, Director of Agricultural Market Services, Attorney, Administrative Manager for Administrative Services, and Human Resources Manager.

There are various other supervisory positions that report to the senior leaders. Each senior leader is responsible to the Commissioner of Agriculture to develop effective leadership within his organization and to set directives and standards in order to meet customer needs.

CUSTOMER FOCUS AND SATISFACTION

Every South Carolinian is, in some way, a customer and stakeholder of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture.

The State requires the Department of Agriculture through our Consumer Services Division to give reasonable assurance that proper weights and measures are guaranteed to consumers when they make purchases of products.

This department is also required by law to test such things as fat content in meat, octane content in gasoline, and content of antifreeze. All of these tests and more are conducted through our Laboratory Division.

Marketing space for agricultural products is provided through the South Carolina Farmers Markets in Columbia, Greenville and Florence. We assist farmers in marketing their products through various commodity boards and councils. We also provide farmers and citizens the opportunity to advertise the sale of farm lands, labor, commodities and equipment to South Carolina citizens in our ***Market Bulletin***.

With such a broad-based spectrum of customers and stakeholders, it is extremely difficult for the agency to determine the satisfaction of its customers through normal channels. We rely on the number of complaints we receive to determine the satisfaction ratings.

PROGRAM – ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Program Cost:

State Funds:	\$2,084,433.45
Federal Funds:	\$74,992.09
Other Funds:	\$3,000.00

Program Goal:

Provides the proper mechanism for the orderly coordination of staff functions. Some of the staff functions administered by this division are: Commissioner's office, legal, finance, payroll, personnel, audits, budget, procurements, supply, mail room and printing, data entry, fixed assets, management, public information and publications. This program also assists small farmers in developing marketing structures and organizing marketing cooperatives and publishes the semi-monthly ***Market Bulletin***, which accepts advertisements of farm lands, labor, commodities and equipment to South Carolina citizens. This program also involves a marketing concept to assist agribusiness development in South Carolina.

Program Objectives:

To properly administer all activities relating to the Department of Agriculture and account for, investigate, audit and collect general funds, federal funds and earned revenues and provide agricultural information in order to assist and ensure the development and promotion of agribusiness industries in South Carolina.

FINANCE

Program Goal:

To promptly process all receipts of revenue and expenditures of the Department and maintain records of these transactions consistent with state laws, regulations, objectives and generally accepted accounting principles.

Program Objectives:

- To collect and report accounting information in a manner in accordance with state law, policies and procedures.
- Perform monthly reconciliations for revenue and expenditures in accordance with state law, policies and procedures.
- To monitor division budgets to insure proper expenditure spending.
- Make sure that all procurements are the most advantageous to the State and in compliance with the provisions of the Ethics Government Accountability.

Program Results:

- Responsible for collecting and reporting information.
- Responsible for reconciling all Department accounts.
- Responsible for monitoring division budgets.
- Responsible for all procurements being reasonable.

Performance Measures:

Workload Indicators:

- 3,854 Purchase orders processed
- 4,695 Vouchers processed
- 243 Deposits processed

Efficiency Measures:

- Ensure fair treatment to vendors
- 100% proper authorization
- 99% deposited in a timely manner

Effectiveness Measures:

- Provided quality and integrity with clearly defined procedures and standards.
- \$10,554,059 Total expenditures
- \$3,851,015 Total revenue received

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES**Program Goal:**

Information Technology Services provides computer resources for employees of the S. C. Department of Agriculture including hardware, software, maintenance of equipment, support and training. It is our goal to provide the optimum resources at a minimum cost.

Program Objective:

The objective of Information Technology is to keep the computer resources of the S. C. Department of Agriculture in line with the technology of other state agencies and private industry in order to provide an efficient work environment. Our current computer network includes a 100 user LAN/WAN and an AS/400 mainframe. We also offer our services to approximately 20 stand-alone personal computer users. Users are located at seven sites across the state. The services provided include the writing and maintaining of custom software for in-house use, the purchase of pre-packaged software, purchase of hardware, user training, and maintenance in the form of minor in-house repairs and service agreements.

Performance Measures:**Workload Indicators:**

- All Year 2000 compliance concerns have been addressed without the request for additional funding. Hardware and software issues were tested, corrected, and/or replaced by in-house personnel with the exception of the COBOL code. Contract help for a total cost of \$5,140 performed the update to these programs. All applications were placed into production as of the beginning of fiscal year 2000 and are operating without incident.

Efficiency Measures:

- 100% real time access to Internet services for 100 users
- 100% access for network office services for 100 users
- 100% access for email services for 100 users
- 100% access for AS/400 computer applications

Effectiveness Measures:

- 99.9% real time access to Internet services for 100 users
- 99.9% access for network office services for 100 users
- 99.9% access to email services for 100 users
- 99.9% access for AS/400 computer applications

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Program Goal:

To support the public information needs of all areas of the S. C. Department of Agriculture including the Commissioner's Office, Administrative Services, Consumer Services, Laboratory Services, Market Services and Marketing and Promotions in the development of information for dissemination and distribution to the public. To facilitate the dissemination of agricultural information to the public and the media.

Program Objectives:

- Increase public awareness of the state's agriculture.
- Provide accurate, concise information to the public regarding the state's supply and demand of agricultural goods and about the agency's programs and services as well as critical issues.
- Offer an agency publication designed to promote and market the state's agricultural products.
- Provide information to the mass public through print and electronic means.
- Assist agricultural organizations in disseminating information about critical issues.
- Continue to develop a good working relationship with the media and serve as the agency's clearinghouse for oral, written, and electronic information that is disseminated to the public.

Program Results:

Performance Measures:

- Outreach
- Support secured for agriculture and agriculture awareness
- Staff required

Effectiveness:

- Published *Market Bulletin* twice a month, as scheduled, and distributed to over 55,000 subscribers for farmers and non-farmers to buy or sell farm and farm-related items.
- Distributed *Market Bulletin* to a total annual circulation of just under 1.2 million households.
- Farmers and non-farmers received an estimated \$30 million in sales for their agricultural products through the publication during this last year.
- Published a total of 20,700 ads in *Market Bulletin*, an increase of over 1,000 ads from the previous year.
- Published *Market Bulletin* on the SCDA web site.
- Citizens can now subscribe or submit ads to the *Market Bulletin* via email.
- Staff responded to an estimated 10,000 individual public and media inquiries this past year.
- Staff wrote, edited and distributed approximately 50 news releases, 25 articles, 8 newsletters, as well as other brochures and informational material.
- Decreased the cost of publishing and distributing news releases through the use of direct computer-generated transmissions from agency to media outlet.
- Agency publications and other information are now available via the agency web site.
- Worked with various daily newspapers with an estimated outreach of 120,000 farmers and non-farmers to develop 8-page tabloids about agriculture in the state at no cost to the state.
- Continue to work with the Food Safety Interagency Team (MUSC, DHEC, Clemson University, and other organizations involved in ensuring a safe food supply) to reduce the amount of response time and increase the credibility of the responses regarding public health, natural disasters, the environment, and other issues.

Action Items:

- Research ways to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the biannual renewal process as required by law for the *Market Bulletin*.
- Continue to develop the agency web site and to create computer-generated presentations describing agriculture in the state and the agency's programs and services.
- Continue personal contact with the media to create other cooperative efforts.

PROGRAM – LABORATORY SERVICES**Program Cost:**

State Funds: \$1,497,027.34

Program Goal:

To provide chemical, physical and biological analytical services required to administer and enforce state laws regulating food for human consumption, commercial food processing, food labeling, food storage and transportation, animal feeds, seed sold for agriculture and gardening and petroleum products.

Program Objectives:

- To regularly sample and analyze products from the public food supply to detect adulteration, check for conformance to standards of identity and quality and ensure that consumers are protected from fraudulent or unsafe food products.
- To regularly sample commercial animal feeds and pet foods from the state's markets for analysis of nutritional and medicinal ingredients for conformance to label guarantees and standards of quality.
- To provide seed analysis services to consumers, certifying agencies, seed companies, seed producers, and in support of regulatory surveillance and enforcement under the State's Seed and Noxious Weed Law.
- To regularly sample gasolines, diesel fuel, kerosenes, and heating fuels from channels of commerce and test them for conformance to quality standards, label representations, and safety.
- To administer product registrations required by law including animal and pet foods, frozen desserts, gasolines and antifreezes and issue licenses and permits for certain special services and businesses.

Performance Measures:**Workload Indicators by Year**

	<u>94/95</u>	<u>95/96</u>	<u>96/97</u>	<u>97/98</u>	<u>98/99</u>
Food Samples (incl. residue)	4,248	4,379	4,259	4,166	3,627
Animal Feeds Sample	2,288	1,493	1,709	1,502	1,710
Seed Samples	17,668	18,367	14,762	15,077	15,600
Petroleum Samples	2,579	2,738	2,669	3,032	2,720
Registrations, Permits, Licenses	4,042	5,057	4,879	3,709	3,627

Analyses Performed by Year

	<u>FY 95</u>	<u>FY 96</u>	<u>FY 97</u>	<u>FY 98</u>	<u>FY 99</u>
Food Analyses	11,798	12,759	13,012	12,810	12,429
Feed Analyses	7,689	4,883	5,200	4,996	5,714
Seed Analyses	28,373	26,944	24,559	26,521	24,009
Petroleum Analyses	17,090	18,865	16,424	10,281	9,780

The decline in transactions by the registration office leveled out this year and likely will continue at the current level for the immediate future. Some 500 fewer food samples processed for the year were attributable to vacancy in the Food Lab staff for part of the year and a lapse in milk sample submissions resulting from a dairy company ownership change. It is anticipated that these numbers will rise back to their previous level in the coming year. Feed Lab productivity increased for the year in spite of problems with an aging nitrogen analyzer that hampers productivity in protein determinations. Software problems plaguing the Petroleum Lab were finally resolved helping recovery of productivity in that area.

Efficiency Measures:

- Registration section transaction costs averaged \$29.46 versus \$28.40 the previous year. The year to year cost increase is a combined effect of inflation and the slight decline in transaction numbers.
- Food sample analyses were done at a cost of \$105.62 per sample or \$30.82 per analysis compared to \$93.00 and \$30.00 respectively in FY 98. The year to year increase was the result of the reduced milk sample load and the corresponding spread of fixed costs over a smaller sample base.
- The cost per sample for animal feed analyses was \$164.00, down \$35.00 from the previous year. Per analysis cost was likewise down \$11.00 for the year. These productivity increases were directly attributable to better analyst utilization and could be improved upon even more if instrumentation problems can be resolved.
- Seed analyses were performed at a cost of \$28.39 per sample or \$18.44 per analysis, very comparable to the figures from the previous year.
- Petroleum product testing was accomplished at a cost of \$56.00 per sample and \$15.60 per analysis compared to \$49.00 and \$14.00 respectively the previous year. With software problems resolved, these numbers should improve in the coming year.

Effectiveness Measures:

Three Year Record of Violation Rates by Program

<u>Program</u>	<u>FY 97</u>	<u>FY 98</u>	<u>FY 99</u>
Food	6.3%	7.8%	11.6%
Pesticide Residue	1.2%	0.5%	1.8%
Feed	23.0%	19.0%	27.0%
Seed	18.8%	13.5%	14.3%
Petroleum	4.3%	5.4%	2.4%

- Food violations at a rate of 11.6% on the year were again heavily affected by findings of excessive fat in ground beef samples. Some 82% of violative samples were of this type. Fortunately, such violations do not represent a food safety hazard though they do reflect possible economic fraud or careless handling of ground meats.
- For the second straight year animal food violation rates have increased coming in at 27% for FY 99. The most frequent violations occur with protein and fat guarantees, important nutritional components of any feed. Neighboring states will be surveyed to determine if these high violation rates reflect a regional trend.
- Pesticide residue violations were up to 1.8%, a three-year high. This does not reflect a food safety problem, however, in that violations were mostly of a technical nature. A residue may have been on a commodity, for which a use had not been established, or a long-cancelled organochlorine pesticide or metabolite was found on a commodity grown in soil that contains a lingering residue from years long past. Cucurbits such as squash are much prone to uptake of soil organochlorine residues.
- Seed Law violations were 14.3% for the year, a typical number based on historical patterns.
- Petroleum violations at 2.4% were lower than the past two years but within the range of national averages for those states which have a petroleum law.

PROGRAM – CONSUMER SERVICES

Program Cost:

State Funds: \$1,635,160.12
Other Funds: \$32,361.41

Program Goal:

Enforce the Weights and Measures Law, Sec. 39-9-10 etc.; the Dealers and Handlers of Agricultural Products Law, Sec 46-41-10 etc.; the Public Weighmasters Law, Sec 39-11-10 etc.; the State Warehouse System Law, Sec 39-22-10 etc.; the Food and Cosmetic Act Sec 39-25-10 etc.; and draw official samples of petroleum products, seed, animal feeds, produce, meats, and enriched foods to be analyzed by the Department's Laboratory Division in their enforcement of several other laws.

Program Objectives:

- To protect the citizens of this State from fraud through incorrect net content statements on packages and incorrect weighing or measuring devices.
- To ensure that agricultural products are measured correctly when being bought or sold.
- To maintain the State's primary standards for mass, length and volume and to furnish industry calibration services with traceability to the National Institute of Standards and Technology.
- To license and investigate bonded dealers of agricultural products, public weighmasters, and bonded storage facilities for grain and cotton.
- To ensure food products are manufactured and stored under safe and sanitary conditions.
- In conjunction with our Laboratory Division, to ensure the quality of motor fuels, the quality and safety of some food products, and the quality of some agricultural products.

Performance Measures:

Inputs:

- 10,650 Firms with commercial weighing and measuring devices
- 425 Firms needing mass, length, or volume standards calibrated
- 53,402 Commercial petroleum dispensers
- 187 Licensed dealers and handlers of agricultural products
- 35 Licensed warehouses for storage of cotton or grain
- 3,580 Licensed public weighmasters
- 942 Food manufacturers or warehouses

Outputs:

- 22,941 Firms visited for weights and measures inspections
- 104,737 Petroleum dispensers inspected at service stations
- 31,957 Small capacity scales inspected
- 3,082,676 Packages inspected for correct net content
- 2,399 Large capacity scales inspected
- 7,589 Standards calibrated for 298 firms at our Metrology Lab
- 8,045 Official samples drawn for the Laboratory Division
- 295 Audits of cotton and grain warehouses
- 190 Dealers and handlers licenses issued
- 2,322 Weighmaster licenses issued
- 1,050 Food manufacturers or warehouses inspected

Outcomes:

- 1.6% Small capacity scales inspected were incorrect
- 2.8% Petroleum dispensers inspected were incorrect
- 9.3% Large capacity scales inspected were incorrect
- 0.9% Packages inspected were incorrectly labeled as to net content
- 18.8% Standards tested in our Metrology Lab were incorrect
- \$6,590.00 Revenue from dealers and handlers and weighmaster licenses
- \$30,869,000.00 Average value of commodities stored in licensed warehouses
- \$31,221.48 Revenue from warehouse storage fees

Efficiency:

- \$49.34 Cost per firm visited for weights and measures inspections
- \$54.98 Cost per large capacity scale inspected
- \$21.71 Cost per calibration performed in the Metrology Lab
- \$116.94 Cost per food and cosmetic inspection
- \$334.70 Cost per warehouse audit
- \$12.43 Cost per official sample drawn for Laboratory Division

PROGRAM – MARKETING & PROMOTIONS**Program Cost:**

State Funds: \$917,533.39
Other Funds: \$1,054,282.04

Program Goal:

To maintain and develop broad-based marketing programs to increase consumer awareness and product demand for quality South Carolina agricultural products at local, national and international levels thereby continuing to stimulate growth in our general economy through advancing agricultural/agribusiness.

Program Objectives:

To provide outlets for profitable movement of South Carolina agricultural products both in their natural form and also in various processed stages. Also stimulate consumer demand for our products by stressing quality, nutritional goodness, value of product and other beneficial reasons to purchase and consume South Carolina agricultural products.

Program Results:

- Utilization and orderly marketing of 450 million plus pounds of South Carolina's major fresh fruit and vegetable crops.
- Raised the level of awareness at consumer level in South Carolina retail and food service establishments.
- Increased consumer confidence in food channels, supporting healthy nutritional diets while removing fear of contaminated products, there by increasing fresh and processed product consumption.
- Improved the visibility of South Carolina specialty products, both fresh and processed, at all levels of retail and wholesale trade.
- Established and maintained South Carolina growers as number two in peach production, number two in flue-cured tobacco production, number five in tomato production, number eight in watermelon production, number eight in turkey production, number nine in peanut production, number eleven in cotton production, and number twelve in pecan production.

- Stabilize decreasing number in fresh fruit and vegetable production industry with cooperative cost effective marketing plans, programs and promotions.

Performance Measures:

Inputs:

Demand for marketing and promotional assistance from production agriculture, specialty products and agricultural processing and manufacturing is steadily increasing due to increased production and competitive marketing programs of competing domestic and international suppliers. Callers seeking assistance and guidelines varies but averages 100 plus per week. The staff level of employees are adequate at present but continuing workloads will necessitate additional employees in the Marketing & Promotion Division.

Outputs:

- International Market Development – Agricultural exports from South Carolina for 1998 estimated at 327 million dollars.
- Certified Roadside/Direct Marketing – Serving 100 plus markets and direct sales outlets.
- Domestic Market Development – Participated in five National Exhibitions, various regional promotional exhibitions, contacted over 425 chain and food service buyer/establishments. Coordinated instate visits for chain and food service buyers with outlets numbering over 5,000.
- Tobacco Program – Worked with six tobacco markets to move the tobacco crop valued at 270 million dollars.
- Specialty Products – Assisted the 60 plus specialty product manufacturers/distributors through South Carolina trade shows and supplying trade leads.
- Sheep, Goat, and Ratite Development and Expansion – Worked with individuals and groups to further develop and expand this industry to its maximum potential for South Carolina producers. Assisted with meetings that included producers, processors and food brokers to establish markets and market demand with profit potential.
- S. C. Quality Program – A program to increase overall awareness of South Carolina products, working with 75 plus members and most chain food stores operating in South Carolina.
- S. C. Food Expo – Expo with 35 plus South Carolina agricultural businesses and 200 plus buyers.
- Equine Program – Served 50,000 owners with 100,000 plus animals that have an economical impact on our economy of 330 million dollars. Also worked with the Horse Council's membership of 2,500 plus.
- Aquaculture – Coordinated activities of aquaculture and striped bass association with membership of 65 plus. Worked closely with legislative issues and national associations.
- Home Economist/Nutritional Program – Worked with national 5 A Day Program, S. C. School Lunch Challenge, Farm City Week, DHEC and Harvest Hope Food Bank. Also through 125 plus television and radio spots promoted nutritional and healthy diet and lifestyles to all of South Carolina with over-laps into neighboring states.
- Ornamental Horticulture Program – Worked with 800 plus members of the Nurseryman's Association, green house growers, landscape, and turf and sod producers. This industry has sales at over 400 million dollars wholesale on an annual basis.
- Exotic Mushroom Program – Coordinated the marketing and promotion of the commercial growers in South Carolina.
- Established Agribusiness Support Services – Assisted over 100 established agri-business firms with marketing and production assistance. Also with packaging, transportation, and other aspects of business for profit and expansion within South Carolina.

- S. C. Commodity Board Program – Assisted the present S. C. Commodity Boards with their collections, marketing, administrative, and other related duties to promote sales, usage and research for each.
 - a) Cotton Board: 360,000 bales on 286,000 harvested acres
 - b) Soybean Board: 10.5 million bushels harvested on 500,000 acres
 - c) Peanut Board: 28.1 million pounds harvested on 11,500 acres
 - d) Watermelon Board: 132 million pounds harvested on 9000 acres
 - e) Pork Board: 300,000 hogs and pigs
 - f) Cattle and Beef Board: 500,000 cattle and calves
 - g) Tobacco Board: 92.2 million pounds
- Major Agricultural Associations – Coordinated and worked closely with Chairman and Association Boards with their administrative, marketing, financial guidance, and other related items.
 - a) S. C. Peach Council: Weather condition limited production to 150 million pounds on 19,300 harvested acres
 - b) S. C. Tomato Association: 89.6 million pounds on 3300 harvested acres
 - c) S. C. Watermelon Association: 132 million pounds on 11,000 harvested acres
 - d) S. C. Corn Growers Association: Weather conditions limited production to 26.2 million bushels on 275,000 harvest acres
 - e) S. C. Soybean Association: 10.5 million bushels harvested on 500,000 harvested acres
 - f) S. C. Horseman's Council: Worked with 2500 memberships and over 50,000 animals
 - g) S. C. Apple Growers Association: 45 million pounds produced on 2700 acres

Efficiency:

- Utilization of trade shows supplying potential buyers of South Carolina agricultural products with information on availability, shipping, packaging and other factors relative to procurement, thereby reducing travel expenses.
- Cooperative research promotions of non-conflicting agricultural products.
- Increasing awareness of PC's for communication with related industry.
- Cost sharing with other agencies' projects that can benefit all involved dealing with one mutual segment of the industry.

PROGRAM – MARKET SERVICES

Program Cost:

State Funds:	\$587,318.70
Federal Funds:	\$25,972.24
Other Funds:	\$2,634,637.39

Program Goal:

- To promote the general welfare of this state by enabling producers of agricultural products to help themselves in establishing orderly, fair, sound, efficient, and unhampered marketing, grading and standardizing of the commodities they produce.
- To provide marketing services and facilities to farmers and agricultural marketing entities to improve their efficiency and effectiveness.

Program Objectives:

- To provide facilities and procedures for direct marketing functions.
- To provide basic and objective market news services and other assistance to aid in increasing production and agriculture's participation in the price discovery processes.
- To establish and operate fee service commodity inspection and grading programs.

Performance Measures:**Workload Indicators:**

- \$885,251 Columbia Market Receipts
- \$120,591 Greenville Market Receipts
- \$137,873 Pee Dee Market Receipts
- \$212,827 Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Fees
- \$57,804 Grain Inspection Fees
- \$1,071,929 Poultry and Egg Inspection Fees

Efficiency Measures:

- The Market News Service provides information to Clemson's computer information network, at no cost, which has expanded our dissemination to all county extension offices and private subscribers.
- Daily livestock information broadcasts are aired on three television and thirty radio stations.
- Use of newspaper coverage to carry market news reports eliminates costly mailings.
- Automatic answering machines are utilized to disseminate information.
- All market news information is on the Internet for easy access by users.

Effectiveness Measures:

- All requests for inspection services were fulfilled including requests on holidays and weekends.
- South Carolina operates inspection services on a fee basis for poultry eggs, grain, fruits and vegetables. Traditionally our fees have been the lowest in the southeast per unit of inspection.
- All inspections at shipping point were deemed accurate in that no turnarounds were experienced at receiving point markets.